

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CGEN, BU (CHAMURLISKY, NICOLA)

SUBJECT: TREASON CASE - NICOLA CHAMURLISKY

REF: (NOTAL) STATE 8298; SOFIA 82

1. SENATOR JAVITS INTERESTED.
2. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SOFIA HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF BULGARIAN CITIZEN NICOLA CHAMURLISKY WHO HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN BULGARIA FOR ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE. SUBJECT WAS SUPPOSEDLY ARRESTED BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES BETWEEN 10-15 SEPTEMBER, 1974, WITH TWO ITALIAN NATIONALS, IDENTIFIED AS A MRS. LYDIA CLEVA, A "VISA OFFICER" PRESUMABLY WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN SOFIA, AND HER BROTHER (NO NAME) WHO MAY HAVE WORKED AS A "MESSENGER" BETWEEN ITALY AND BULGARIA.

3. EMBASSY SOFIA RECENTLY APPROACHED ITALIAN EMBASSY SOFIA ON BASIS OF ABOVE INFORMATION. ITALIAN CHARGE CONFIRMED THAT A LYDIA CLEVA HAD WORKED FOR ITALIAN EMBASSY SOFIA BUT WAS NOW IN ROME. CHARGE DESCRIBED
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CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CLEVA LEFT SOFIA AS "COMPLEX" AND

DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT IN ABSENCE OF EXPRESS

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PERMISSION FROM ROME, WHICH HE AGREED TO SEEK.
EMBASSY SOFIA REPORTS THAT CHARGE'S DEMEANOR SUGGESTED
THAT MATTER WAS QUITE SERIOUS. EMBASSY SOFIA HAD
PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED ITALIAN EMBASSY ONLY WITH THE
NAME OF NICOLA CHAMURLISKY AND ITALIANS HAD RESPONDED
THAT THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT, HIS ALLEGED
ARREST, ETC.

4. EMBASSY SOFIA SUGGESTS THAT DUE TO APPARENT
ITALIAN SENSITIVITIES OVER THIS MATTER IT MIGHT BE
PREFERABLE FOR EMBASSY ROME TO APPROACH MFA DIRECTLY
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION. IF
EMBASSY ROME SEES NO OBJECTION, REQUEST IT SEEK
FURTHER DETAILS FROM MFA. MEANWHILE EMBASSY SOFIA
WILL TRY INDIRECTLY TO CONTACT CHAMURLISKY'S ATTORNEY,
DR. KAMEN PETROV, FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH HE MAY BE
ABLE TO PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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